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INSIDE



Dr. Carson pays tribute to MLK

Page 6

COMMERCIAL NOT A LAUGHING MATTER

TRENTON—Seems that some people can't take a joke, especially those in the state of New Jersey. After a commercial for the Virgin Islands, of an islander, his goat and an apparent knock on the Garden State, appeared on television, Governor Christine Whitman and others attacked back.

"It would seem to me that the Virgin Islands would have enough pride and confidence in its own desirability to enhance visitors by showing them the island."

See LAUGHING MATTER/page 8

NEWARK COUNCILMAN WANTS FULL TIME HEALTH OFFICER

NEWARK—Newark Councilman Ronald L. Rice is insisting that the city administration make immediate arrangements to hire a licensed full time health officer for the city and is introducing an ordinance to that effect. He is calling for a complete overhaul of the city's health department.

VICTIM'S SUPPORT SERVICE IN PLACE

TRENTON—Attorney General Deborah Poritz announced the Kick-off of the New Jersey Bias Crime Victims' Support Service, the first of its kind in the nation. The service will feature a telephone referral system for people who are targets of bias crimes and is part of a continuing effort to address this problem that affected over 1,000 people in New Jersey last year. The toll-free number is 1-800-227 BIAS (2427).

BRADLEY'S OVERHAUL OF CAMPAIGN FINANCES

WASHINGTON—Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ) recently introduced legislation to radically overhaul campaign finances. Bradley's proposal would equalize funding among candidates, require debates, and provide free media time. It includes a Constitutional amendment that would give states and the Congress explicit authority to limit campaign spending and contribution. It would add a new campaign funding line to each tax return allowing tax payers to give between \$1 and \$500 to the Senate Campaign in their state. The money would go into a shared fund to be divided on election years equally among all qualified candidates.

RE-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO HELP AT&T LAID OFF WORKERS

TRENTON—The Department of Labor will provide re-employment and occupational training services to assist workers affected by the downsizing of AT&T on-site at the company's headquarters in Murry Hill, Grants for education and training to help upgrade the skill of workers and retraining for those with obsolete skills are available through the State-funded workforce Development partnership Program and the federally-funded Job Training Partnership Act.



CITY NEWS

Serving New Jersey's African-American Community Since 1983

January 31 - February 6, 1996

ASBURY HOUSING AUTHORITY IN TROUBLE

by Ron L. Holland

ASBURY PARK—An audit report conducted by William O'Neill, a CPA and Housing Authority Auditor for 33 years, was given to public housing tenants recently and was determined that as of the fiscal year ending in March 31, 1995, the Asbury Park Housing Authority has a net loss of over \$5 million, is operating a \$255,000 deficit and is currently designated a "troubled" authority.

The Authority incurred losses in several areas including a 3 part Section 8 program which also left a \$230,000 operating deficit. O'Neill said the Authority's current liabilities exceeded its current assets by \$285,000.

The report identified several areas that contributed to what he termed a "negative Operating Reserve." For

instance, the former Executive Director, Kenneth E. Nixon Jr. who was forced to resign and is currently under investigation by FBI officials, received over \$22,000 for Compensatory time accumulated over 17 years. However, O'Neill's report indicates that neither Nixon's personal contract nor the Authority's personnel policy provides for such payments.

Other areas include a \$231,000 payment to the city in unpaid sewer bills, \$16,000 Court Transcript payment on behalf of former commissioners; and \$20,000 in lawn cutting charges to public housing programs for urban renewal land.

Although the Authority owns the land, the cost was not charged to its proper funds, Vernice McGriff, the Vice Chairperson of the Authority's board of Commissioners, said that

these areas were properly identified and will be corrected.

She said the unpaid sewer bills represent a late payment and "I think that everybody could understand that if you are late on your bills sometimes you have to pay." McGriff said these and other charges do not occur every year. O'Neill said during the time he was developing his findings and recommendations, the Authority was in the process of developing a 5-year financial plan to submit to the Housing and Urban Development program (HUD) which is their primary source of funding.

One component of the plan set off a feverish debate among tenants, commissioners, union representatives and Authority employees. It involves a privatization proposal that would cut maintenance

services by 63%. Currently, the Authority spends over \$676,000 in maintenance. Primarily in wages salaries, benefits and uniforms. The 63 percent cut represents over \$400,000 in savings for the Authority. Each of the 11 members will be required to take a

reduction in pay. As it stands, a Senior Maintenance Repairman earns in excess of \$20 hourly and would be reduced to \$10 an hour.

A Maintenance Repairman salary ranges from \$13-\$16 and would be reduced to \$8 an hour, and

See TROUBLE/page 8

Rev. Jackson to head Black Ministers' Council



Rev. Reginald Jackson (foreground) with (rear r-r) Bishop Philip Cousin, First Episcopal District, A.M.E. Church and Rev. Kenneth Saunders, North Shelton A.M.E. Church, Piscataway.

by Michael Burton
Rev. Reginald Jackson became the new Executive Director of the Black Ministers' Council of New Jersey replacing Dr. Edward Vernier who resigned from the position at a January 23rd meeting of the council in Trenton, NJ.

Vernier's decision to resign as the head of the 14-year-old council came after questions were raised about his dual leadership role as the executive director of the council and of the Newark North Jersey Committee of Black Churches. Vernier stated that his decision was made at the meeting and that there was no "undue pressure" to force him out of the position.

Vernier was instrumental in helping to establish the Newark North Jersey Committee of Black Churches which began in 1967 following the Newark riots. The Black Ministers' Council of NJ was an outgrowth

of the Churchmen's group and was formed in 1982. The two groups have recently seen issues from opposing sides making Vernier's dual position as director of both organizations a formidable task.

Jackson, who is the pastor of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church in Orange and also chairman of the council's political action committee, praised the outgoing director for his work and dedication and stated, "Dr. Vernier has been, and will continue to be, a vital component of the Black Ministers' Council." Jackson went on to say that allegations that there was any "force out" of Dr. Vernier are completely false and that the resignation was totally voluntary.

Jackson however, does plan to make changes in the organization beginning first with his perception. "We need to be more visible to the community," Jackson stated. "We need to be more aggressive in

See REV. JACKSON/page 8

555 years in captivity



An 1884 wood engraving showing African captives.

by Kelly Howard

The history of African Americans began in Africa, a continent that was home to people with different languages, traditions, histories, and religions. They called themselves Zulu, Yoruba, Ashanti, Twi, and Kumbi, among other names.

In the mid 15th century, Europeans tried to Africa for the labor force needed in the newly colonized Americas. As many as 12 million Africans from varied ethnic backgrounds endured forced migration and enslavement.

Out of their suffering was forged a new people—no longer simply Twi, Yoruba, Ashanti, or Kumbi. In the Americas, they were first slave; later, black, Negro and African American. Yet it would take decades for the descendants of these proud African

people to be considered American, and the battle to be seen and treated as equal and/or better would be never ending.

When the Europeans of England, Italy, Portugal and Spain, began in the trade of humans in the 15th century, it was not something new. From Egyptians to Greeks to Romans, slavery of some form had pervaded the structure of society.

In fact a good number of the Africans that were captured during the 1400 and 1500's, were slaves of one tribe or another that were captured in battle.

Though many of the Africans that entered the new world were slaves, during the 1400's quite a number that arrived were free or would eventually be free, in the position of indentured

See 555 YEARS/page 4

The first 100 years: 1441-1542

1441-Portuguese explorers capture Africans off the coast of Mauritania, signaling the start of European trade in African slaves.

1444-Arrival of 235 to 240 kidnapped African slaves in Lisbon.

1479-Spain and Portugal sign the treaty of Alacovas, granting Portugal the right to supply the Spaniards with all the African slaves they needed.

1492-Pedro Alonzo Nuno, a free black man, serves on Christopher Columbus' ship on the first Spanish voyage to the New World.

1494-The first Africans arrive in Hispaniola with Christopher Columbus. They were free persons.

1502-African slavery introduced in Hispaniola, thereby inaugurating the institution in the Americas.

1511-Francis Antonio de Montesinos denounces the mistreatment of the Indians in Hispaniola.

1513-Thirty black men in Balboa's expedition help construct the first road across the Isthmus of Panama.

1522-First large-scale rebellion by African slaves in the Americas occurs in Hispaniola, at the plantation of Christopher Columbus, Diego.

1526-Spanish explorers bring the first Africans into what is now the United States. Blacks escape to Native American communities farther inland. This is the first slave revolt in North America.

1537-African slaves in Mexico conspire to rebel, but the plot is discovered.

1539-The black explorer Estevanico encounters the Zuni Indians in New Mexico and is killed.

1542-Spanish abolishes Indian slavery and the encomienda system. (Encomienda was a grant of Indian labor to a Spanish colonist.)

Paterson Underground Railroad site uncertain

by Michael Burton

PATERSON—Nothing more remains except a strip of dirt and concrete that separates the Paterson Public Safety complex from a Wendy's restaurant. But in the 1800's this site was a beacon of hope and a passage into a better life for runaway slaves.

It was on this site that two men, one black and one white, would take trains standing on the tower of a Victorian house in Paterson, flashing a light signaling a safe haven for those who were attempting to escape slavery and gain their freedom.

William Van Rensselaer, a free black and Josiah Huntton, a white abolitionist, would take trains guiding fugitive slaves to freedom from the tower's Huntton's house, which they would do until the end of the Civil War.

Today, the house stands no more, and the site where it once stood is littered with garbage and debris, not showing a trace of the historic significance that it poses. But it has not diminished its value, with a battle

between those who wish to preserve the site for historical and educational purposes, and those who wish to use it for commercial gain, playing what seems to be an endless series of tug-of-war battles.

Community residents and city officials have clashed several times over the issue of what is to be done with the Paterson Underground Railroad site. In February, the issue came to a head when the Taco Bell fast food chain expressed interest in building a new franchise on the site. The Taco Bell Company agreed however, to build a monument with a plaque on the site and donate an unspecified amount to the Paterson museum for an exhibit honoring black history in the city.

To many however, Taco Bell's proposal was an insult. Community protest ensued with several rallys on the historical site. Several community organizations circulated petitions throughout the city, galvanizing support to keep Taco Bell from building on the land. The Under-

See RAILROAD SITE/page 4

Fire claims two more

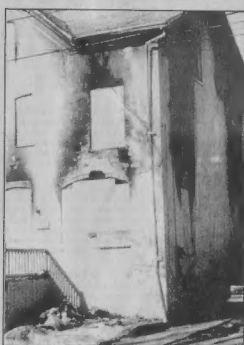
by Kelly Howard

PLAINFIELD—In a devastating turn of events on Wednesday, January 17, a fire at the residence of 513-515 East 6th Street, claimed the young lives of Hassan Robinson, 4, and Teresa R. Anderson, 20. The fire, the third to claim the life of a young child in five weeks, started on the 515 side of the duplex home.

"It has been determined that the fire started in a sofa on first floor of one of the two family homes," said Fire Chief Henry LaRocca.

Upon reaching the scene, the fire fighters encountered several people whom informed them that there were people trapped on the third floor. After battling the already out of control fire on the first floor, the firemen found the two victims on the second floor of the home.

Investigations have been and are still being done by Plainfield Fire Department and the Union County Prosecutor's Office into the cause of the fire, but Chief LaRocca said it will be very hard to determine exactly what started it because of ex-



Fire scene at 513-515 East 6th St. in Plainfield

tensive damage. No fire damage occurred on the 513 side of the duplex, but all utilities have been shut off making the home uninhabitable.

The fire left eight people homeless, including the child's mother, Terri Robinson, and great-grandmother Janie Myers. Funeral services for young Hassan, were on Monday, January 22, at Jenkins Funeral home.

PEOPLE

Houston donates funding for children's hospital



At the dedication are Claisy Houston, and William L. Vazquez, FACHE, University Hospital Vice President and Chief Executive Officer admire the plaque commemorating the dedication of the Whitney Houston Pediatric Special Care Unit.

NEWARK—The Whitney Houston Pediatric Special Care Unit has recently dedicated at UMDNJ-University Hospital, thanks in part to a grant from the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children.

This state-of-the-art unit enables doctors at University Hospital to provide treatment for the most serious conditions affecting children including trauma, brain disorders and liver diseases.

"We all know that University Hospital has a long history of providing special care to the children of Newark and the surrounding communities," said Claisy Houston, president and CEO for the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children.

"This is why we chose to help University Hospital enhance those efforts. We wanted to play a role in ensuring the health and welfare of

future generations—and we knew this would be one of the best places to start."

The highly specialized unit has four beds dedicated for pediatric specialty services. It features cheery, comforting decorations and the latest in medical equipment.

"This unit represents the culmination of many years of commitment and concern demonstrated by the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children as they worked with us to make University Hospital the best provider of care for children," said William L. Vazquez, FACHE, University Hospital Vice President and Chief Executive Officer.

"It stands as an enduring legacy of Ms. Houston's love and concern for children in need and reminds us that 'the children are our future.'"



Plainfield Mayor Mark Fury (l) swears in police officer James T. Abney (second r), while mother, Bernice Abney (holding Bible) and Plainfield Police Chief John Driscoll (c) look on.

Volunteers needed

12:30 p.m.

Another position is open in the hospital's business office, located at 14 South Park Street. This four-hour position is available one or two days a week.

For further information, please contact the department of volunteer services at 201-744-7300 ext. 4279.



PORT MONMOUTH—A the recent Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Breakfast in Fort Monmouth guest speaker Attorney Susan D. Davis told the audience what she remembers of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. "The dream is not what sticks out in my mind. Freedom is what sticks out in my mind. Dr. King mentions 'freedom' 23 times in his speech. His dream was a demonstration of freedom, and he hoped that these things would happen."

POSITIVELY BLACK

Remaining undeterred

by Junious Ricardo Stanton

The other day I was reading Dennis Kimbro's book *Daily Motivations For African American Success* and the word *undeterred* just jumped off the page at me. What a marvelous way to describe determination, perseverance and persistence. *Undeterred* that means nothing can hinder, discourage, or hold you back from your goals or objectives.

It is my hope that future generations will say that Africans in America were *undeterred* by the bigotry and systematic discrimination we faced daily in our quest for human rights and social, economic and political self-determination.

The successful achiever overcomes many obstacles, setbacks and barriers both the internal and external variety. First we must believe we can. Triumph over adversity develops character, it increases one's confidence, builds inner strength and expands one's resourcefulness.

During our 386-year sojourn in this hemisphere, we have demonstrated our ability to thrive despite unspeakable horrors and oppression. It's now time to dream bigger dreams, envision ourselves in a more positive light and assert ourselves as powerful forces for positive change.

Our biggest obstacle is our own thinking. We have been tricked into not aspiring to greatness. (I've always felt that the tragedy was not that people like Nat Turner, Paul Cuffe or Marcus Garvey "failed" but that more sons and daughters of Africa don't think as big as they did!!!!)

Once we throw off the shackles on our minds nothing can deter us from achieving our goals. Nothing should deter you from developing your innate potential and genius. African people were designed for greatness. Adversity is the means through which we demonstrate it.

We are like the roots of a tree that grow up through a concrete sidewalk. We are like the weeds in our gardens that vex us with their tenacity. They just keep coming back and growing stronger *undeterred* by the forces arrayed against them. Think big, pursue your dreams, remain steadfast and *undeterred* by the trials and tribulations that will inevitably come your way.

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Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31
PLAINFIELD—A bingo party with prizes and refreshments at the Senior Citizens Center at 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1
JERSEY CITY—Keren St. Angeles, of JCCC Women's Center will speak on "OLEP: How To Earn College Credits," noon in the Women's Center. For more info call 201-200-3428.

NEWARK—Curators' Gallery Talk: Anne Spencer, Curator of Ethnology, will discuss "African Designs: Heirs to the Trans-Saharan Trade," 12:30 p.m., second Floor African Gallery. For more info call 201-596-6550.

JERSEY CITY—"Getting an 'A' Out of Your Child," free lecture on using parenting skills to improve children's school performance at Hudson County Community College. For more info call 201-714-2107.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3
NEWARK—Presentation of "Eunice," a movie of two African-American women, at 2 p.m. in the Billy Johnson Auditorium.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
JERSEY CITY—1-Pastory lovers, Chief Snobberg of HCCO's Culinary Institute will demonstrate the art of pasty making in "Back to Basics: Pull Pastry and Pate a Choux," for more info call 201-714-2107, ext. 018.

JERSEY CITY—JCCC faculty member Michael Christian will perform in the college's "Town and Gown Recital" at 3 p.m. in Ingalls Hall of Rossey Building. For more info call 201-200-3428.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6
CRANFORD—"The People's Law School," a presentation of legal issues and how they affect the layperson, will be offered during a six session program. For more info call Dr. Roseanne Buccarelli at 908-709-7048.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7
JERSEY CITY—"Problem Solving" a 10-hour course offered by HCCO to help educators design and effectively follow-through opportunities for problem solving with young children. Course runs from 7-9 p.m. every Wednesday. For more info call 201-714-2107.

FEB. 8 THRU MARCH 31
NEW YORK—"Drawings from the Collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II" will be presented at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more info call 212-535-7710.

FEBRUARY 6 AND 9

MAHWAH—"Social Workers and the Challenge of Violence World wide," two-part video conference will be broadcast live from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1 to 2:30 p.m. For more info call, please call 201-539-7549.

FEB. 16 THRU APRIL 28
NEW YORK—"Fabiange in America," will be on display at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more info call 212-535-7710.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17
NEW YORK CITY—Harlem Globetrotters in "The World's Greatest Basketball Show" at Madison Square Garden for ticket info call 212-465-0773.

THRU FEBRUARY 20
PLAINFIELD—Literary volunteer of American Plainfield chapter is hosting a Basic Literacy Tutor Training Workshop at the Plainfield Public Library every Tuesday. Workshop begins 6:30 p.m. for more info call 908-755-7998.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
SOUTH ORANGE—"Building Your Family Through Infant Adoption," and educational forum for prospective adoptive parents sponsored by Spence-Chapin Adoption Services at the Baird Community Center, 7 p.m. For more info call 201-275-1212.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
LINCOLN—"College and Career Day," for all ages, sponsored by the Lincoln Bible Church, from noon to 7 p.m. For more info call 908-747-1231.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
ORANGE—"The Seventh Annual Shades of Black Art Exhibit and Dr. Martin Luther King Human Rights Award Ceremony at the Rouzaux's Manor. For more info call 201-256-4005.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21
CAMDEN—Shoeshorn PLUS Teacher Seminars in Creative Dramatics from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Rutgers University campus. Registration begins at 3:15 p.m. Pre-registration fee is \$25.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23
NEW BRUNSWICK—Shoeshorn PLUS Teacher Seminar continuing from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rutgers University campus. Registration begins at 12:45 p.m. For more info call 908-232-9772. Pre-registration fee is \$25.

Business & Professional Directory

CALENDAR	GENERAL CONTRACTING	SPIRITUAL ADVICE	TELECOMMUNICATIONS
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NATION

National News
at a glanceWILL HILLARY'S AIDE
BITE THE DUST?

Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary is facing ethical problems. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown faces ethical troubles. But with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton also in hot (White)water, it may be Maggie Williams that will get the shaft. States a national magazine report: "Head of the Whitewater hearings? Sen. (Alphonse) D'Amato apparently believes White House documents will prove that Mrs. Clinton ordered her chief of staff, Margaret Williams, to remove potentially embarrassing papers from the office of Vincent Foster, the First Lady's former law partner and later a White House deputy counsel, after Foster committed suicide....Under oath, Williams has denied moving any papers, if D'Amato can prove she is guilty of perjury, he will succeed in splintering a lot of political mud on Mrs. Clinton and the President."

—WASHINGTON, DC

APPEALS COURT
UPHOLDS CONVICTION
IN YAHWEH TRIAL

The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals recently affirmed the convictions of Yahweh Ben Yahweh and six other members of the Yahweh religious group, also known as the Temple of Love, on Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO) Act conspiracy charges. Yahweh Ben Yahweh, which means "God, Son of God," established the Temple of Love in Miami in 1980. He is known for his controversial statements about various groups, including "white devils," and that he allegedly formed a violent, secret group in order to carry out attacks against individuals and groups he opposed.—WASHINGTON, DC

REAL ESTATE GROUP
OPPOSES CHASE/
CHEMICAL MERGER

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers Inc., the nation's largest and oldest national minority trade association of real estate professionals, recently announced it "adamantly opposes" the proposed merger between Chase and Chemical banks because "it offers little for minorities, specifically in the areas of community development, affordable housing and fair lending," said NAREB chairman James Haynes in a written statement. The merger would create the nation's largest bank holding company, but would pose troubled times for community lending, he said. Chase historically has had a poor Community Reinvestment Act rating, which means it failed to meet the borrowing needs of all of the people it serves.—WASHINGTON, DC

POWELL NAMED TO
HOWARD U. BOARD

The Howard University Board of Trustees has named Retired Gen. Colin Powell to its board. Dennis F. Hightower, president of Walt Disney Television & Telecommunications, was also named. The moves are seen as a way for Howard to regain and sustain its reputation as one of the leading historically black universities in the nation. Low enrollment, increasing competition from other schools and financial troubles are mentioned as current obstacles for the institution once known as "The Negro Harvard."—WASHINGTON, DC

BLACK REPORTER
LOOKING FOR 'GREAT
MIGRATIONS'

Isabel Wilkerson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporter, says she is looking for black people from Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas who migrated to Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York from the 1920 to the 1950s. Wilkerson, a Times senior writer and the first black woman to win a Pulitzer Prize, is writing a book about the Great Migration. The book, which "will tell the stories of the men, women and children who took part in the Great Migration," will be published by Random House, she said. Interested parties should contact Wilkerson at The Migration Project by writing: 47 West Polk St., No. 1128, Chicago, Ill. 60606 or by calling 708-See NEWS/page 9

A.G. Gaston dies

by Jay Reeves
Associated Press writer

BIRMINGHAM, AL. (AP)—A.G. Gaston, a slave's grandson who became a millionaire businessman and a quiet force against segregation during the civil rights turmoil of the 1960s, died Friday at age 103.

Gaston, born in the old plantation country of west Alabama, built a fortune that helped give him standing with some in Birmingham's white power structure. At the same time, he helped civil rights leaders and, at one point, baited the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. out of jail.

Gaston had a stroke earlier this week and was hospitalized when he died.

"Essentially it was just old age," said nephew Thomas Gardner, owner of Smith and Gaston Funeral Home.

The Demopolis native moved to Birmingham as a youth. He founded the Booker T. Washington Insurance Co. in 1923 with \$500 and began selling policies to black steelworkers.

Despite never making it past 10th grade, Gaston also opened Citizens Federal Savings and Loan and a string of other companies that catered to blacks in racially segregated Birmingham.

Gaston's holdings were estimated at more than \$35 million before he sold the insurance company to its employees for \$3.5 million, the value of its capital assets, in 1987.

"He had very little formal education, but he hired folks who did," said Louis J. Willie, Gaston's right-hand man for decades. "He had a native ability to understand dollars and cents and how you make money."

Gaston worked at the bank until six months ago, despite being blind in one eye and losing a leg to diabetes in the late 1980s.

Gaston used his wealth and connections within the white community when Birmingham's streets became the scene of racial violence during protests led by King against the city's segregation laws.

Gaston paid the \$5,000 bond to free King from jail following his 1963 arrest for marching without a permit. King wanted to remain behind bars as a political statement, but Gaston feared the movement could fall into turmoil without him.

"He and Dr. King had the same goals," said Willie, who wrote the check for King's bond. "As a businessman, his point of view was one

See GASTON/page 5

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Would America have been America without her Negro people?

—W.E.B. Du Bois

Question:

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Answer:

By reading *City News*
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weekly newspapers
that report news and
information for and
about you.

Question:

Isn't it time
you subscribed to
the newspaper
that focuses on your
concerns, issues and
accomplishments?

The ups and downs of politics in Essex County. As Clinton seizes II. Opinion page A-4

CITY NEWS 90c

Volume 15 Number 1 January 31, 1996

THE PROMISE OF
black youth...

Nelson Mandela
launches
children's fund

Newark, N.J.
emerges from
bankruptcy
protection

DiVincenzo
proposes cut
to freholder
budget

NY Cotton
Exchange
moves to
Jersey City

Celebrate a week without violence

NY Cotton
Exchange
moves to
Jersey City

Celebrate a week without violence

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YOUTHBEAT

Kids' Calendar

WEDNESDAYS THRU SUNDAYS
NEWARK—Astronauts: The Star Travelers, will be shown at the Newark Museum Dreyfus Planetarium, noon to 5:00 p.m. For more info call 201-596-6638.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31
NEWARK—Registration continues for Junior Museum Winter/Spring Week-day Pre-school, After-school and Home-school '96 workshops in the South Wing Education Center of the Newark College of Art from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info call 201-596-6638.

JANUARY 31 THRU FEBRUARY 28
CRANFORD—A course entitled "Basic Baseball Skills" will be offered to children and adults at Union County College each Wednesday at 6 p.m. For more info call 908-709-7600.

ATTENTION—Elizabeth NAACP Youth Council presents its annual Black Collage "Out to Atlanta: Nine colleges in five days. Meals included. For dates and more info call Tasha at 908-355-4884, or Dajohn 908-354-5074.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1
NEWARK—Planetarium Show "Mother Earth/Father Sky," will be held every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday thru February. For more info call 201-596-6638.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2
ELIZABETH—A Hip Hop Poetry & Comedy Slam, a mixture of the hottest political poets and Def-Jam comedians, 7 p.m., George Washington School, #1. For more info call Jamal at 908-289-0763.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3
NEWARK—"Art Together" program for parents and children, exploring the monthly theme of African American artists. Continuing every Saturday and Sunday in the Education Lobby. For info call 201-596-6638.

MORRISTOWN—Students entering 8th, 7th & 6th grades are invited to take the Beard School Scholarship Examination at 9 a.m. To register for the exam call the school at 201-599-3032.

FEBRUARY 3 AND 10
NEPTUNE—Little league registration begins for all children between ages 6 and 15, 9 a.m. to noon at Neptune Municipal Complex. For more info call 988-8200, ext. 279.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
RED BANK—Cats all poets for a poetry reading, school setting, for ages 5 to 100, at the Count Basie Learning Center 8-7:30 p.m. For more info call USSC office 201-1867.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17
ELIZABETH—"The Third Annual Black Bowl Competition," an African American History competition featuring teams from 6 local high schools, at 1 p.m., in Little Theatre, Kean College. For more info call Tasha at 908-355-4884.

FEBRUARY 17 AND 24
NEPTUNE—Registration will be held for girls softball, ages 8 to 16, 9 a.m. to noon, at Neptune Municipal Complex. For more info call 988-8200, ext. 279.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
SOMMERVILLE—New Jersey Ballet Co. presents its own adaptation of "Hansel & Gretel" at Raritan Valley Community College. For more info call 908-725-3420.

Gaston

Continued from page 3

way. As a minister and leader, Dr. King had another point of view."

Earlier, Gaston had watched from his office window as police used dogs and fire hoses against young black demonstrators. At the time he was talking on the telephone to David Vann, a lawyer working with the white community who later became mayor.

"Business people could call him and he would talk to people for us," said Vann. "When the hoses were turned on the children, he said, 'I can't talk to you anymore,' and he hung up."

Some blacks labeled Gaston an "Uncle Tom" because of his work as an intermediary with progressive whites. Willie said Gaston only was trying to protect the community and, in turn, his investments.

"Your business interests cannot grow where there is war," Willie said. "He was a consummate businessman."

Gaston was survived by his wife Minnie and five grandchildren. His lone child, Arthur Gaston Jr., died in the 1960s. Funeral arrangements were incomplete.

It takes more than a month to celebrate a history so rich and captivating

This Week in Black History

Each week, City News will bring you "This Week in Black History" highlighting events of importance to our African-American communities. Frederick Douglass said, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." Here are our struggles and our progresses:

JANUARY 31

1865 - Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery.

1919 - Jackie Robinson, professional baseball player, is born.

1986 - August Wilson's "Fences," starring James Earl Jones, opens at Chicago's Goodman Theatre.

FEBRUARY 1

1865 - John S. Rook is the first African American lawyer to practice before U.S. Supreme Court.

1902 - Hughes, writer, activist is born.

1960 - First election in St. Louis by four North Carolina students at F.W. Woolworth in Greensboro, NC.

1978 - Harriet Tubman honored by U.S. Postal Service as first stamp in their Black Heritage USA series.

FEBRUARY 2

1807 - U.S. Congress bans slave trade.

1982 - Carter Williams patents cellophane (canning).

1949 - President Harry S. Truman sends a message to Congress pressing for civil rights legislation, including anti-lynching, fair

employment practices, and anti-poll tax provisions.

1990 - South African president F.W. de Klerk lifts thirty year ban on African National Congress.



Blanche Kelso Bruce

FEBRUARY 3

1810 - Antonio Ruiz (El Negro Falucho), national hero of Buenos Aires, Argentina, dies for his country.

1874 - Blanche Kelso Bruce is elected to the U.S. Senate from Mississippi. He will be the first African American senator to serve a full term and the first to preside over the Senate during a debate.



Black Heritage USA Co.

Harriet Tubman

1966 - Autherine Lucy Jenkins as the first African American student at the University of Alabama.

FEBRUARY 4

1794 - France abolishes slavery.

1822 - Free U.S. blacks settle in Liberia, West Africa.

1913 - Rosa Parks, initiator of the Montgomery, AL, bus boycott, is born.

1986 - Sojourner Truth stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service as part of the Black Heritage Collection.

FEBRUARY 5

1884 - Willis Johnson patents the eggbeater.

1934 - Hank Aaron, major league home run champion, is born.

1956 - L.R. Lautner is the first African American admitted to the National Press Club.

1958 - Clifton W. Wharton, Sr. becomes the first African American to head a U.S. European embassy when he is confirmed as ambassador to Romania.

FEBRUARY 6

1887 - Robert Tanner Jackson becomes the first African American to receive a degree in dentistry.

1945 - Reggie superman, Bob Marley is born in Jamaica.

1993 - Arthur Ashe, tennis player, humanitarian, activist, dies.

Youth pay tribute to Dr. King



No Name Necessary Drill Team members (back row l-r) Syasia Cox, Myesha Daniels, Rasheda Andrews; (middle row l-r) Tyshana Andrews, Carol Burnett, Tameshia Cox, Jenna Mayo; (front row l-r) Shantelle Cox, Aesha Cox, Sameerah Cox, Sharelle Tettey, Sharice Cox, and Dalvin Andrews were participants of the Long Branch Community's tribute to Dr. King. The event was held at the Long Branch Middle School on January 21.

Photo by Avery Grant

Aja Raquel crowned 'Little Miss Zeta Dove'



Aja Raquel Harris

PLAINFIELD—Six-year-old Aja Raquel Harris was crowned 1995-'96 "Little Miss Zeta Dove" at the First "Little Miss Zeta Dove" pageant held last November at the Black United Fund Community Center in Plainfield. First runner-up was taken by 6-year-old Arielle Denise Marie Dance. The pageant was sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Eta Omicron Zeta Plainfield Chapter. Proceeds will go towards the Chapter's Scholarship Fund and Community Service Projects.

Kids take action for rainforests

WASHINGTON—Tens of thousands of kids across the country will join together in classrooms, youth groups, and environmental clubs this April to raise pennies for the Earth in the "1996 Earth Force Pennies for the Planet Campaign."

Through the campaign, participants will help save trees around the world and learn why trees and forests are important for a healthy planet.

Earth Force, a new national kids environmental non-profit organization, is kids everywhere working together to improve the environment. Since the organization's founding in 1994, over 500,000 kids have participated in Earth Force programs.

The "Pennies for the Planet Campaign" is an annual program linking environmental education with community action to provide kids with an opportunity to take measurable action on behalf of the Earth. The campaign ends on Earth Day April 22.

Teachers, youth group leaders, and other community youth organizers are urged to participate.

Free educator packets are available by calling 703-553-9453. Packets contain an educator guide, 25 copies of Pennies for the Planet News,



Teen arts on tour

ELIZABETH—The Summit Bank located on Jefferson Ave. in Elizabeth will be the host of the Union County TEEN ARTS Touring Exhibit for the month of February.

The exhibit consists of 23 pieces of art selected from the 500 visual art works shown at the 1995 Union County TEEN ARTS Festival held in

March at Union County College.

Some exhibiting students include: Melinda Soto, of Benedictine Academy and John Paul Gorgorosa of T.C. Reilly HS both from Elizabeth; Tyrone Randolph, of Plainfield HS; Natasha Dillon of Park Middle School and Bill Drabos of Union County Vo-Tech both from Scotch Plains.

Toys motivate learning

by Vivian W. Owens

Sit quietly for 15 minutes in the presence of a child handling a toy. Do nothing but observe the child. Notice the development of motor skills for the one-year-old as she attempts to move the wheel on the toy car.

Can you hear four-year-old Brian talking to himself as he corrects the problems in the leaning tower of Pisa that he's building with logs? Watch how three-year-old Terry decides which puzzle piece to use as she tinkers with the "shapes" box. Keep your eyes on the seven and eight-year-olds who have been erecting a bridge over the last several days.

If you take note of any child playing with toys, you have to conclude that toys motivate learning. In fact, toys are good investments for promoting thinking and reasoning skills.

Over my years of teaching, I have noticed that my best physics of math students usually played with Lego or other structural building toys from very early in childhood. They usually enjoyed musical toys—like the piano, guitar, or horn. Radio kits, telescope kits, model airplanes, and put-together train sets have figured in

prominently.

Puzzles appropriate to a child's age always stir thinking and arouse curiosity. Games of all types, particularly those sold in educational toy stores, have the power to increase different learning skills.

Parents of babies aged one week to two-year-olds should look for soft, cuddly toys in order to develop learning skills through touch, sight, and sound. Mobiles for this age group excite the imagination and prod language development.

With any toy, parents are reminded to keep safety in mind. Avoid toys with features (pull-off buttons, for example) which would harm a young child.

Before you conclude your toy shopping, do buy a tape recorder for family use. Tape recorders come in handy for children wanting to listen to stories on audio cassette.

Whenever you purchase toys, please keep in mind that child's play is natural, good, and desirable. Every child needs toys because toys motivate learning and encourage healthy intellectual development.

To order your copy of Parenting For Education call 540-942-3650

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LIFESTYLE

Dr. Benjamin Carson pays tribute to MLK, Jr.

by Kaylin Dines

NEWARK—A thunderous round of applause filled Metropolitan Baptist Church as the crowd stood to greet Benjamin Carson, M.D., the one-time "ghetto kid" now neurosurgeon, who was the guest speaker at Newark's Eighth Annual Sing in Praise of King commemoration.

Speaking with a calm, distinct, almost careful tone, Dr. Carson gave a descriptive account of the acts of vengeance that many of his black high school classmates in Detroit took against their white counterparts when Dr. King's assassination was announced.

Acknowledging societies' pent up frustrations from the '60s, the director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore displayed his all-but-humorous-feelings about today's youth in relation to their knowledge about Dr. King. "Often I am saddened when I

think about how little our young people actually know about Dr. King and about what he stood for. I believe that he would probably turn over in his grave if he saw what many of them are doing today."

Carson gave a description of his humble beginnings and how his mother "survived" with two young boys to care for. He remembered a time when she had no money, only (a third grade education, no resources, and had to move in with relatives in a Boston tenement.

Referring to the tenement as being "typical," Dr. Carson described the boarded up windows and doors, glass on streets, gangs, murders, and sirens. "I can remember seeing people lying on the street with bullet wounds in their chest, life oozing from their bodies," he said.

The neurosurgeon explained why, in order to achieve Dr. King's Dream, you first have to believe in the possibility of the dream coming true. In addition, you may have to

"re-program your own thinking."

Carson stated that his mother, Sonya Carson, believed that God's wisdom instructed her to put restrictions on the amount of television his sons viewed. However, he and his brother weren't too pleased and wanted to know "what kind of wisdom is that?"

With the new-found spare time, the young Ben and Curtis began reading and submitting book reports. "Which she couldn't read, but we didn't know that," joked Dr. Carson acknowledging this as a pivotal point in his "intellectual development."

Within the a year and a half I went from no competition for last spot to no competition for first spot. "The same kids who were calling me dummy in the fifth grade would come to me in the seventh grade and say, 'Hey Ben, how do you work this problem?' and I would say, 'Sit at my feet youngster while I instruct you,'" said Carson who began taking large pride in being the "smart one."

Audience member and South Orange resident Cheryl Bellamy could relate to what the doctor talked about because at this time "turning off the television in our house is crucial."

Bellamy, one of the three generations in her family attending the event stated that, "It forces the children to stay focused and it fosters communication and quality time within the family."

The keynote speaker also pointed out the importance of teaching youth about the richness of the culture to show that "their ancestors' contributions go beyond that of loaning a basketball, wearing baggy pants, and developing rap songs."

Responding to the speaker Elizabeth Councilwoman Pat Perkins-Auguste noted that, "We cannot think the school system will teach us about ourselves. Parents should actively ensure that children are learning their history."

Newark Councilwoman-at-Large Mildred Crump, believes the

Board of Education should purchase Carson's books (*Gifted Hands* and *Think Big*) and have him speak with the Students about "success in spite of circumstances."

"What I think Dr. King would be saying if he were here today is that we need to emphasize the right things. We have the tools, we have the equipment, the opportunities are out there" despite racism said Carson.

In closing, he shared his philosophy for success with the audience, *Think Big*, is an acronym which means:

- T: Talent
- H: Honesty
- I: Insight
- N: Nice
- K: Knowledge
- B: Books
- I: In-depth learning
- G: Good

Dr. King stood for something and it got him killed, but we all need to grasp that dream. We all need to stand for something and realize that we are an important part of what God has placed here on this earth...If we live by that dream, this will be the greatest nation the world has ever



Dr. Benjamin Carson

known."

After those closing remarks, Romona Santiago, the Deputy Mayor for the City of Newark, proclaimed Sunday, January 14, 1996 as "Benjamin Carson Sr., M.D. Day."

Twelve year old Sara Pickett, of South Orange, said she plans to work harder in school and pass on Dr. Carson's "Think Big" philosophy to other students.

Food for thought

Once again it's that time of year when we celebrate Black History during the month of February. Although celebrating the history should be a never-ending process, black accomplishments are highlighted during this month. As a way of keeping in touch with black history we list a few books that should become keepakes in every family and be read not only throughout February but all year long. The list will continue throughout the month.

Their Highest Potential

An African-American School Community in the Segregated South, by Vanessa Siddle Walker, Emory University

What can the past teach us about the fate of today's black students in the public school system? Focusing on the importance of dedicated teachers and parents, Vanessa Siddle Walker recounts the history of one rural North Carolina school—the Caswell County Training School in Yanceyville—that succeeded in providing a quality educational environment in spite of the hardships of segregation. She does not advocate the re-segregation of America's schools. Rather, she sees her research as providing important context for the ongoing debate about how best to educate African-American children. Walker's mother was a teacher at the school she researched, and Walker is a former student there. Review copies available in May. Speak Now Against the Day

Trouble

Continued from page 1

would be reduced to \$8.00 an hour, and so on.

William Berry, a repairman and stock person in the department said during the meeting to privatize and ask the state to pay out is taking us too today here. How can we afford our rent, our mortgages, our insurances. Some of us are struggling to afford it now. And to take a pay cut makes the matter worse.

A reduction in wages and benefits was only half the debate. The privatization proposal, at a bid of \$248,000 also includes a reduction in the maintenance department to 5 employees and two supervisors. The contractor, at his expense, has the option to bring in his own workers "if needed."

That has tenants concerned. With the overwhelming amount of work the department already has one tenant said that it would be impossible for 5 men to handle 6 apartment complexes with minimal equipment, mostly in need of repair.

Barbara Lesinski, chairwoman of the authority's board of commissioners and acting Executive Director said "based on an economic standpoint HUD required us to make these changes," they told us we had to make cuts in staff. "But one maintenance source who asked not to be identified said "all they are taking over is the maintenance departments salary and benefits."

The Housing Authority is still in charge of the insurance on vehicles, in charge of supplying the vehicles. They are still in charge of supplying all of the materials; all of these still comes under the Housing Authority.

See TROUBLE/page 8

The men who cook

SUMMIT—In celebration of Black History Month the 100 Black Men of New Jersey, Inc. is hosting a dinner entitled "A Magnificent Feast With the Masters."

The evening will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 2 at The Grand Summit Hotel, on Springfield Avenue in Summit. Featuring dinner prepared by some of the country's most renowned chefs, a black art auction, and dancing.

Participating chefs and their featured courses include: *Hors d'oeuvres*—Chef Selection; *First Course*—Grilled Marinated Breast of Chicken with Orzo Pasta; *Second Course*—Roasted Snapper with Crabmeat and Tomato Risotto by Chef Jacqueline Chomolondoy of BCAC in New York, NY; *Third Course*—Duck Patilla by Chef Patrick Yves Pierre-Jerome of Ryland Inn in Whitehouse, NJ; *Fourth Course*—Rack of Lamb with Madagascan Peppercorn Crust and Roasted Garlic Jus along with Mousseline Potatoes by Chef Darrell Evans, the National Culinary Olympics winner, of the Occidental Grand Hotel in Atlanta, GA; *Fifth Course*—Organic Greens tossed with Pico de Gallo, provincial olives goat cheese and balsamic vinaigrette by Chef Patrick Clark, of the National Culinary Olympics winner, of the Occidental Grand Hotel in Atlanta, GA; *Sixth Course*—Warm Chocolate Cake accompanied by Ginger Ice Cream, Ginger Sorbet and Chocolate Sauces by Chef Alaine Roberts of the Grand Summit Hotel in White Plains, NY.

Proceeds will benefit the Black Culinary Institute and the 100 Black Men of NJ Scholarship Fund. For ticket information call 201-678-6322.

of Bloomington, at Riverside Square is hosting a special bridal affair featuring gifts by three black designers and an East African-inspired wedding cake by Chairmiana Jones of 1st Th! Sp!cial Outrageous Cakes. From 1 to 5 p.m. at the registry on 2. RSVP to 343-3200 ext. 2243.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
PLAINFIELD—Historical Society of Plainfield presents "History in the Making—Honoring Achievement in Plainfield," exhibit at the Drake Museum from 2 to 4 p.m. For more info call 908-755-4831.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5
EDISON—Furniture to Ride a Passage by Hassan Salim, 11:30 a.m. in Rm. 312 Middlesex County College. For more info call 908-906-2566.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6
JERSEY CITY—African History Storytelling in the Michael Gilman Student Union Building at 11 a.m. For more info call 201-300-3524.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7
NEWARK—Wise Women's Brown Bag Program. Bring your lunch and listen to Munish Hassan Salim discuss "African Roots and Spiritual Healing at noon" Essex County College. For more info call 201-877-3208.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8
NEWARK—What Should We Teach Our Children? lecture by Dympha Upju-joo at noon in Rm. 319 Middlesex County College. For more info call 908-906-2566.

JERSEY CITY—Garfield Broome, a JCSO adjunct instructor of multicultural studies will speak on "The Yoruba Religion and African Spiritualism" in Rm. 304 at 11 a.m. For more info call 201-300-3524.

NEWARK—The Newark Public Library Literary Event "F.E.W. Harper Society at 6:30 a.m. for more info call 201-733-5411.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8
NEWARK—ECC Gospel Spiritual Concert in Mary Church Theatre featuring St. Paul's Sounds of Praise Choral, TRUTH Gospel Harmony and the Premiere Dance Theater. For ticket info call 977-3209.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10
NEWARK—Historical Society Caribbean Family Festival Performances and Workshops from 1 to 4 p.m. For more info call 201-483-3539.

Black History Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31
NEWARK—Art exhibit and reception featuring the works of artist Michael Bryant in the Gallery Rm. 2123 from 4 to 6 p.m.

THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY
BLOOMFIELD—Bloomfield college's Westminster Art Gallery featuring a site-specific installation by Roy Crose entitled "Loss of Innocence." For gallery hours call 201-748-9000, ext. 343

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1
JERSEY CITY—Opening reception for "The Story of a People," exhibit of graphics and paintings celebrating 30 years of the Weusi Artist collective in three Michael Gilman Student Union at JCSO. For more info call 201-300-3524.

NEWARK—Opening Ceremony for Essex County College's Black History Celebration at 12:30 p.m. in Mary Church Theatre. Guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Calvin Butts.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Biographical Approaches to African-American Women's History, lecture by Princeton University Professor Neil R. McMillen. ABO Brower Commons College Ave. Camden. For more info call 908-932-9072.



Artist Ross Crose working on his "Loss of Innocence" exhibit. Broome, a JCSO adjunct instructor of multicultural studies will speak on "The Yoruba Religion and African Spiritualism" in Rm. 304 at 11 a.m. For more info call 201-300-3524.

JERSEY CITY—The Man and His Dream, program commemorating the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the Civil Rights Movement at JCSO in the Margat Williams Theatre at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 201-200-5247.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2
NEWARK—The Marketplace in the Main Campus 2nd Fl. Forum from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MONMOUTH—Alpha Phi Alpha presents its 5th annual gospel concert at the Monmouth University Polak Auditorium at 8 p.m. For more info call Ahmed Edwards at 908-571-3907.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3
HACKENSACK—The Bridal Registry

Need a mortgage or refinancing on a low to moderate income? The Mighty Hudson can save you thousands of dollars.

Hudson City Savings Bank has a long standing tradition of concern for the people in the communities it serves, including those with low to moderate incomes. This can now work to your advantage if you apply for your mortgage or refinancing at Hudson City Savings Bank.

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To make it even easier to gain approval, Hudson City will apply less rigid qualifying standards and lack of an established credit history will not disqualify you—provided, of course, you can prove your credit worthiness and ability to repay the debt.

To apply, phone the Mortgage Origination Department at 201-967-1900 or 609-428-2740. Your new home may be just a phone call away!



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Burlington	33,120	Morris	39,520
Camden	33,120	Ocean	36,320
Essex	39,520	Pascic	42,160
Gloucester	33,120	Somerset	43,680
Hudson	28,240	Union	39,520
Middlesex	43,680	Warren	30,880

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